**Past:**

Growing up I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I never thought about what kind of teacher I wanted to be until I went to Mountainview Elementary School. I was a junior in high school when I met Scotty and his other classmates. They all had one thing in common, they were autistic. I observed them for two days. During those couple days there was something about Scotty that stood from the rest. He was just a joyful kid to be around. His personality and smile lit up the whole room when he was there. My time at the school I had to act like I wasn’t there in the room, but Scotty took notice to me on one of the days. He came up to me and grabbed my hand. He then quietly asked me with the help of his teacher, “Miss Adams, can you tie my shoe?” At that moment I knew teaching special education was something I wanted to pursue. Something that simple impacted my life because I want to have a special bond with my students like Miss Morris had with Scotty and her other students. Scotty forever changed my life that day, and I will never forget him.

**Current:**

In the summer of 2011, I got a job as a paraprofessional. I worked with teenagers and young adults in their early twenties who have multiple disabilities. There were seven students in the classroom for summer school. They each had their own story even if they couldn’t speak to tell me. They told me through communication boards and nodding their head yes and no, getting informed from the other paraprofessionals and teacher. There twin sisters, one was deaf/blind and the other was blind with other learning disabilities who only had their mother in their life because their father passed away, a boy who had all the support in the world, a younger brother who went to school with him who came to visit him during his study hall, and another who’s father left because he couldn’t handle the fact his daughter wasn’t like other kids. Hearing their stories and watching them in the classroom taught me a lot over those six weeks I spent with them. They were truly happy with themselves and what they were given and how strong they were because they had to face a lot in their young lives. There was never a day I saw them sad. This taught me a lot about myself and I learned a lot too. I shouldn’t take simple things for granted and I should be grateful for what I have. After meeting them they made me more determined in following my dream to be a teacher.

**Future:**

In the next few years I hope to have a job as a special education teacher. I really want to teacher fourth graders who have Autism, like Scotty. I want to take my experiences that I learned from him and the others and apply them to my teaching. My goal is to help others and watch them succeed. That’s what I want in life is to make difference in someone’s life like Scotty and the others did for me. Then I hope what I teach others they will continue to spread it others and have to keep continuing for years and years.